GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3775
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2017
5G Spectrum
Raj Dr. Udit

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce 5G network/services across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the percentage of the population likely to be covered under the said services by 2022 and the steps taken by the Government so far in this regard;

(c) the time by which the said network/services are likely to be commercially made available across the country, State/UT-wise; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to make the spectrum auction an annual affair and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to expedite the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a)& (b) Since 2012, many auctions have been conducted in various spectrum bands. All the auctioned spectrum is 'liberalized spectrum'. The Telecom Service Providers are free to deploy any technology including 5G within the license framework using this liberalized spectrum.

(c) As per available information, 5G services have not been rolled out commercially in any country. No time frame can be indicated for commercially rolling out these services across the country.

(d) At present, the Government has no plan to make the spectrum auction an annual affair. Spectrum auctions were conducted every year from 2012 onwards in various spectrum bands as per availability. 964.8 MHz of spectrum out of 2354.75 MHz was purchased by various Telecom Service Providers through auction conducted in October 2016. Thereafter, there has been no complaint of spectrum scarcity.

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